

COMMON FROG

(*Rana temporaria*)



Identification:

- Adults up to 9 cm in length.
- Usually a shade of olive-green or brown (although can be yellow, pink, red, lime-green, cream or black).
- Dark patches on the back, stripes on the hind legs, and a dark 'mask' behind the eye.
- Oval, horizontal pupil.



Call:

- Soft repetitive croak.

Distribution:

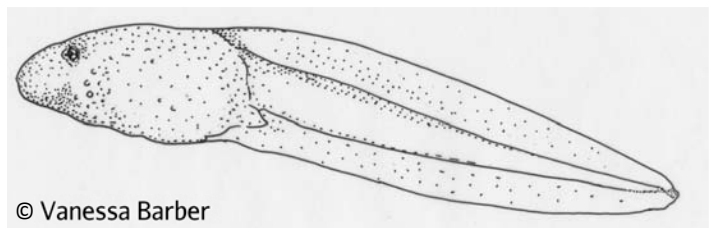
- Native to the UK.
- Found throughout Britain and Ireland.
- Widespread and common across Europe but numbers thought to be declining.

Ecology:

- Breed in shallow water bodies such as puddles, ponds, lakes, and canals.
- Tend to be most active at night when they feed on a wide variety of invertebrates.
- During winter they hibernate under rocks, in compost heaps, or underwater buried in mud and vegetation.

Lifecycle:

- Emerge from hibernation in early spring and breeding season begins.
- Spawning takes place in early spring.
- After 2-4 weeks tadpoles hatch from spawn.



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- Tadpoles take around sixteen weeks to develop into froglets.
- Froglets leave the water between June and September.
- Adults and froglets spend autumn building up fat reserves in preparation for winter.
- Spend the winter sheltering from the cold but may take advantage of milder weather to forage.
- Reach sexual maturity at 2-3 years old.



Eggs and larvae:

Deposit 'rafts' of spawn, often containing up to 2000 eggs. Each small black egg is surrounded by a clear jelly capsule around 1 cm across. Common Frog tadpoles are black when they hatch but develop light bronze speckles as they mature.



Predators and other threats:

Threatened by degradation of habitats and the introduction of disease. A large number of animals predate on frogs including mammals, birds and reptiles such as Grass Snake. Their eggs are often predated by newt species.



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